restricted sovereignty of Germany in the demilitarized zone of the Rhineland." She was ready to conclude new agreements for European security, including a demilitarized zone on both sides of the French and Belgian frontiers on the basis of full parity ; a non-aggression treaty for twenty-five years between Germany, France and Belgium, to be guaranteed by England and Italy; an air pact for the west; non-aggression pacts with Germany's eastern neighbours on the Polish model; and the return of Germany to the League. The Colonial question and the separation of the Covenant from its Versailles setting were matters for friendly negotiation. Mr. Eden deplored the unilateral repudiation of a settlement freely negotiated and freely signed. That the Franco-Russian treaty violated the Locarno settlement, he reminded the Ambassador, was not held by any other signatory, and the matter could have been referred to arbitration. The change of attitude in regard to the League, on the other hand, was most important.

The immediate task was to save as much as possible from the wreck of the Locarno system. The event had profoundly shaken confidence in any future German engagement, declared the Foreign Secretary in Parliament. There was no reason to suppose that it implied a threat of war, but hostilities had to be taken into account. " Should there take place, during the period which will be necessary for the consideration of the new situation, any actual attack on France and Belgium which would constitute a violation of Article II of the Treaty of Locarno, H.M.G., notwithstanding the German repudiation of the treaty, would regard itself as in honour bound to come in the manner provided in the treaty to the assistance of the country attacked/* The General Staffs of

England, France and Belgium proceeded to concert measures in case of aggression.

On March 19, after meetings of the Locarno Powers with the exception of Germany, a special session of the Council of the League condemned Germany's action, invited her to accept certain provisional arrangements for the interim period, and proposed to discuss the status of the Rhineland and pacts for mutual assistance. Mr. Eden suggested that, pending negotiations, she should reduce the occupation to "symbolic" proportions, and that the Hague Court should decide whether the Franco-Russian pact infringed the Locarno settlement.

It was also proposed that troops from the Locarno and other Powers should be stationed on the German side of the French and Belgian frontier, and that Germany should neither increase